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Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to the request of the General Assembly, in pursuance of Assembly resolution 54/154, by which it requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Economic and Social Council a detailed report on all activities undertaken to combat racism and racial discrimination by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, and containing an analysis of information received on such activities. The report also contains information on the preparatory process of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in the year 2001 in South Africa.

2. On the basis of the General Assembly's request for information contained in its resolution 54/154, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a note verbale to United Nations bodies and specialized agencies requesting information on their activities to combat racism and racial discrimination. As of 10 May 2000, replies had been received from the following United Nations bodies and specialized agencies: the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

II. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination within the United Nations System

3. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1998/26, requested that the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused on the preparatory process for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

4. A report was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights by the Secretary-General on the implementation of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78 (E/CN.4/2000/15). The report contained details of the action taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as of December 1999 to implement the requests outlined in Commission resolution 1999/78. Consequently, the present report reviews only action taken between January and May 2000.

A. Commission on Human Rights

5. In its resolution 2000/14 on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the offer by South Africa to host the Conference in 2001.

6. In the same resolution, the Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint an 11-member Bureau for the two sessions of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference, comprising two representatives per regional group and a representative of the host country as an ex-officio member.

7. The Commission invited Governments to promote the participation of national institutions and local non-governmental organizations in the preparations and in regional meetings. It also encouraged all parliaments to participate actively in the preparation of the Conference through the relevant international organizations.

B. First session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

8. The Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held its first session in Geneva from 1 to 5 May 2000, as mandated by the General Assembly in paragraph 29 (d) of its resolution 52/111.

9. The session was attended by representatives of Member States of the United Nations, non-member States represented by observers and Palestine, specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, intergovernmental organizations, other entities, human

rights bodies and mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations.

10. In its 12 meetings, the deliberations of the Preparatory Committee dealt with both substantive and organizational questions. The Preparatory Committee adopted 13 decisions (see A/CONF.189/PC.1/21).

I. Major issues discussed and decisions made

Date and venue of the Conference

11. The Preparatory Committee adopted, without a vote, the proposal to accept the invitation of the Government of South Africa to host the Conference and the proposal to hold the Conference from 31 August to 7 September 2001. The representative of South Africa stated that the exact location of the Conference in South Africa had not yet been determined and would be communicated at a later time.

12. The Preparatory Committee adopted the provisional rules of procedure without a vote. Among other decisions, it agreed that the Conference would elect 25 officers: five per regional group, and that the Conference would establish one Main Committee and one Drafting Committee, which may set up subcommittees or working groups.

13. In rule 65 of its provisional rules of procedure, the Preparatory Committee decided that for countries that do not have a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights, representatives designated by ombudspersons or specialized independent national bodies for the promotion and protection of racial equality may participate as observers in the deliberations of the Conference. Special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights, in particular those who have contributed to the preparatory process of the Conference, will also be invited to participate. A new rule allows any member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to participate as an observer in the deliberations of the Conference.

Slogan and framework for the provisional agenda for the Conference

14. An in-session open-ended working group was established to consider a slogan and the framework for the provisional agenda for the Conference. The slogan of the Conference was adopted as follows: "United to combat racism: equality, justice, dignity".

15. Regarding the provisional agenda of the Conference, the Preparatory Committee decided to adopt the following themes to be included in the provisional agenda for the Conference:

(a) Sources, causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(b) Victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(c) Measures of prevention, education and protection aimed at the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, at the national, regional and international levels;

(d) Provision of effective remedies, recourses, redress [compensatory][1] and other measures at the national, regional and international levels;

(e) Strategies to achieve full and effective equality, including international cooperation and enhancement of the United Nations and other international mechanisms in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and follow-up.

Draft declaration and programme of action

16. The Preparatory Committee invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to draw up a draft declaration and programme of action for the Conference, on the basis of the outcome of the regional preparatory meetings and the regional seminars as well as of suggestions from Member States, specialized agencies involved in the preparation of the regional meeting and seminars, the regional commissions and all United Nations programmes and bodies, representatives of United Nations human rights mechanisms and concerned non-governmental organizations.

Participation of non-governmental organizations

17. The Preparatory Committee decided that representatives of NGOs would also be invited to widely participate in the Conference on questions within the scope of their activities. It should be noted that the provisional rules of procedure, as adopted, permit NGOs to participate not only in the Main Committee and Drafting Committee but also in any other committee or working group established.

18. With regard to the accreditation of NGOs not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Preparatory Committee adopted a decision empowering the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee, in consultation with regional groups, to accredit representatives of such NGOs during the inter-sessional period, on the understanding that in cases where a Government raises questions regarding accreditation, the decision shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee.

19. The Preparatory Committee also considered a note by the Secretariat (A/CONF.189/PC.1/20) transmitting the request of 11 NGOs to receive accreditation to the Preparatory Committee and the Conference. This request was made pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, which provides for NGOs not in consultative status with the Council to request special accreditation for world conferences and their preparatory processes. The Preparatory Committee adopted without a vote a decision allowing those 11 NGOs to be accredited.

Participation of indigenous representatives

20. The Preparatory Committee adopted a decision in which indigenous representatives who are accredited pursuant to Council resolution 1995/32 shall be accredited, on request, to the Conference. Other interested indigenous NGOs may also be accredited following the normal procedures set out in Council resolution 1996/31.

Establishment of an inter-sessional open-ended working group and extension of the second session of the Preparatory Committee

21. The Preparatory Committee recommended that the General Assembly establish an inter-sessional open-ended working group to meet in Geneva for five working days at the end of January 2001 in order to develop the draft agenda, the draft declaration and the draft programme of action of the Conference. The Preparatory Committee also recommended that the General Assembly authorize it to extend its second session for up to five additional working days.

Regional meetings

22. The representative of the Council of Europe reported that the Council is organizing a pan-European conference on the theme "All different all equal: from principle to practice". The meeting will take place from 11 to 13 October 2000 in Strasbourg, France. The European conference will result in general conclusions, to be forwarded to the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

23. The Islamic Republic of Iran and Senegal confirmed their willingness to host the Asian and African regional meetings, respectively. No dates were fixed for the meetings. Representatives of both States raised the issue of financial support.

Expert seminars

24. The High Commissioner reported to the first session of the Preparatory Committee that the following expert seminars have been planned: for Eastern Europe in Warsaw from 5 to 7 July 2000; for Asia in Thailand from 5 to 7 September 2000; or Latin America in Santiago from 25 to 27 October 2000; and for Africa in Addis Ababa from 27 to 29 September 2000. For Western Europe, an expert seminar took place in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2000 (see paras. 33-37 below).

2. Reports, studies and other documentation presented to the Preparatory Committee

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the questionnaire circulated to review progress made in the fight against racism

25. Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78, paragraph 49 (a), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights prepared a questionnaire for States, United Nations specialized agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national institutions to review their progress made in the fight against racism and to reappraise the obstacles to further progress and ways to overcome them. A report containing an analysis of the replies to the questionnaire (A/CONF.189/PC.1/3) was prepared.

26. As of the time of writing of that report, the Office has received replies from the following States: Austria, Belarus, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cuba, Denmark, France, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Iraq, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates,

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America; the following specialized agencies: World Health Organization, United Nations Environment Programme; the following international governmental organizations: International Seabed Authority, United Nations University; the following non-governmental organizations: Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization, Danish Centre for Human Rights, Fraternité Notre Dame, Human Rights Watch, International Federation of Women Lawyers, Kowani Kongres Wanita Indonesia, Médecins sans frontières, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Susila Dharma International, World Organization of Former Pupils of Catholic Education; and the following national institutions: Canadian Human Rights Commission, Commission on Human Rights of Mexico, Commission fédérale contre le racisme (Switzerland), Ombudsmannen Mot Etnisk Diskriminering (Sweden), Ombudsman's Office of Costa Rica.

27. In its conclusions, the report stated that most respondents noted that several laws had been enacted in their respective States to address the issue of racial discrimination in such areas as incitement to racial hatred, racial discrimination in employment and consumer practice, discrimination against women, racial equality before tribunals, equality in housing, and laws against racist or hate organizations. However, it was noted by respondents that there was little evidence that these laws were effective. There are also very few benchmarks to test success or progress.

28. The replies to the questionnaire revealed that there was little consensus or information on the factors that lead to racism. A few respondents pointed to economic factors, such as the concentration of wealth, globalization and historical colonial regimes in given countries, which have impeded the economic development of certain groups and perpetuated racist practices. Some respondents expressed the view that regional stability affected the internal racial and ethnic situation. Other factors indicated were political and psychological in nature.

29. It was stated that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office had been instrumental in increasing the effectiveness of activities and programmes aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by assuming a clear leadership role. Respondents recommended that the Office focus, *inter alia*, on: technical assistance in such areas as training of the judiciary and law enforcement officials; reporting under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; advising on national institutions and education initiatives; increasing support to treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and researching other ways and means to achieve further progress.

30. In the light of the fact that a significant number of States have not yet responded, the High Commissioner has decided to redistribute the questionnaire; replies will be analysed and compiled for submission to the second session of the Preparatory Committee, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in May-June 2001.

Study on effects of racial discrimination on children of minorities and migrant workers

31. A report by the Secretary-General entitled "Study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities and those of migrant workers in the fields of education, training and employment" (A/CONF.189/PC.1/11) noted that research in the area of racial discrimination against migrants or minority children in the fields of education, training and employment is sparse. Statistics and studies that target the children of minorities or migrants are rare, and studies that focus on children tend to rarely disaggregate according to racial, ethnic, minority or migrant status. Therefore, the report gives a list of acts constituting racial discrimination against children but does not claim to be comprehensive at this stage in the research. The report also discusses the effects of racism and discrimination against children of minorities and migrant workers. It recommends the systematic collection, exchange and analysis of data at the national, regional and international levels on these issues, with a focus on developing programmes, policies and strategies to combat racial discrimination against migrant and minority children in these areas.

Report on consultation on the use of the Internet

32. A report on a consultation on the use of the Internet for the purpose of incitement to racial hatred, racial propaganda and xenophobia (A/CONF.189/PC.1/5) was submitted by the Secretariat. To date, 15 replies had been received by the Office of the High Commissioner to its communication of 20 May 1999 to Member States,

United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, requesting information on the use of the Internet to incite racism, xenophobia and intolerance. The report includes a summary of these replies. Replies from respondents recognized that the Internet can be a source of harm by being used to incite hatred, yet can also be a tool in the struggle against racism and intolerance. The importance of an education component in any programme to combat racism and intolerance on the Internet was also recognized.

Report on the expert seminar on racism, refugees and multi-ethnic States

33. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organized an expert seminar at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 6 to 8 December 1999 to examine racism and ethnic conflicts as among the root causes of refugee flows; to find ways and means to stop the expansion of racism and ethnic conflicts in order to prevent refugee flows; to examine how better protection of vulnerable groups within the States concerned might be ensured; and to protect the rights of refugees within host States (see A/CONF.189/PC.1/9).

34. The seminar observed that legal provisions alone are insufficient solutions to racial and ethnic discrimination. Combating racial and ethnic discrimination entails the redistribution of social, economic and cultural power by promoting social justice and fairness, ensuring equal opportunities and participation for all.

35. In its final observations and suggestions, the seminar recommended that at the national level, States acknowledge and implement in their legislation and culture the reality of the multiracial, multi-ethnic and multicultural composition of their States. With regard to asylum seekers, it was recommended that Governments comply with their obligations under international law and grant asylum according to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

36. The seminar also pointed out that within action at the international level, a harmonization of work was necessary between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and indeed throughout the United Nations system, to ensure adequate protection of refugees and internally displaced persons from social and other forms of discrimination.

37. The seminar maintained that the Security Council should be involved more actively in preventive diplomacy in order to pre-empt ethnic conflicts from erupting into hostilities. It also suggested that the Security Council draw on the expertise of those human rights bodies which make use of early-warning and urgent procedures, particularly treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee.

Report on the expert seminar on remedies available to victims of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and on good national practices in this field

38. An expert seminar was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 16 to 18 February 2000. Major topics discussed were: racial discrimination in economic, social and cultural life; racial discrimination against vulnerable groups; recourse procedures of non-nationals, migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees, minorities and indigenous peoples; remedies available to victims of racial discrimination; activities of national institutions; and examples of good practices and reinforcement of regional and international mechanisms (see A/CONF.189/PC.1/8).

39. The seminar noted that international human rights instruments contain extensive requirements for making effective remedies available. The seminar recommended that at the national level States become parties to all these international instruments that promote and protect racial equality and implement them in good faith.

40. The seminar also pointed out that remedies available to victims of racial discrimination in economic, social and cultural life should include recourse to national institutions which can play an important role in disseminating information about protection against discrimination and in advising victims of remedies available; recourse to law enforcement officials who are responsible for protecting victims and carrying out measures to curb discrimination; recourse to prompt and effective action by the judicial system; educational activities through which racial prejudice or practices may be curbed; and

the activities of the media, which should promote tolerance, understanding and racial equality.

41. The seminar participants were of the view that in order to enhance the effectiveness of recourse procedures, they should be easily accessible, relatively uncomplicated and expeditious. Legal aid and other forms of assistance should be provided. Victims of racial discrimination should be entitled to reparation in different forms, such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. Monetary and non-monetary forms of reparation were judged equally important. Non-monetary forms of reparation could include such things as verification and acknowledgement of the facts; public disclosure and acceptance of responsibility; official declarations or judicial decisions that restore dignity and rebuild the reputations of victims; and the commemoration of the worth of the victims.

Consultation on the Conference held in Bellagio, Italy

42. A consultation on the Conference was held in Bellagio, Italy, from 24 to 28 January 2000 (see A/CONF.189/PC.1/10). It was convened by Gay McDougall, member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Executive Director of the International Human Rights Law Group, with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and the participation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The purpose of the consultation was to bring together diverse groups of experts from around the world to formulate recommendations on the forthcoming Conference. The above-mentioned report provides a synthesis of the discussions that took place during the consultation. It sets out the recommendations that were developed by the participants relating to the core themes and possible outcomes of the Conference.

Note by the secretariat on ways of improving coordination between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and specialized agencies

43. A note by the secretariat on ways of improving coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner, specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations in the field of action to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (A/CONF.189/PC.1/4) was prepared based on information received by specialized agencies and international, regional and subregional organizations, and on memoranda of understanding signed between the Office and other agencies which define bilateral action to be taken to combat racism.

44. In its conclusions, the note recommended that a systematic flow of information be ensured between the Office and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and other international, regional and subregional organizations on the situation of racism and racial discrimination.

Contribution of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

45. Paulo Pinheiro, member of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, introduced a document submitted by the Subcommission to the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.189/PC.1/13) and a working paper he had prepared (A/CONF.189/PC.1/13/Add.1) on proposals for the work of the Conference. The second document noted that the Subcommission considers the Conference to be an important and unique opportunity to formulate a worldwide strategy to combat racism in the twenty-first century. The report recalled that the experts of the Subcommission have contributed to the struggle against racism through the elaboration of studies which have proposed recommendations and measures to be taken. The Subcommission has been responsible for introducing themes reflecting new challenges and forms of racism, particularly in relation to economic factors affecting racial discrimination. Globalization has been highlighted in regard to its effect on incidents of racism and discrimination. The Subcommission believes that the Conference should address the denial of racism and the need for thorough analysis of contemporary forms of racism, such as discrimination in multiracial societies and ethnic divisions in areas which have suffered armed conflicts.

Contribution by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

46. Mr. Sherifis, Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, introduced the Committee's contribution (A/CONF.189/PC.1/12). The report recalled that at its fifty-third session, held from 3 to 21 August 1998, the Committee discussed a wide variety of ideas about matters which might feature in

the agenda and in the concluding declaration and programme of action of the Conference and adopted decision 9(53) (see A/53/18, chap. VIII). The report also mentioned that at its fifty-fifth session, held from 2 to 27 August 1999, the Committee continued to discuss its contribution to the preparatory process of the Conference and adopted decision 5(55), entitled "World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" (see A/54/18, chap. VIII). In this decision, the Committee proposed to the Preparatory Committee that it include in the agenda of the Conference consideration of the problem of how the international community may prevent or mitigate mass and flagrant violations of the human rights of persons belonging to ethnic and racial groups. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Committee also suggested that an eventual plan of action for the Conference could deal with such issues as:

(a) Processes of racial reconciliation;

(b) Racial discrimination against indigenous populations;

(c) All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights;

(d) Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, challenge to peace, human rights, including the right to life, human dignity, stability and the rule of law;

(e) Incitement to racial hatred as a punishable offence;

(f) Effective measures to protect all persons against racial discrimination in both public and private sectors, and remedies and reparations for victims;

(g) Educational measures for all segments of the population in the spirit of the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and intolerance;

(h) National commissions on human rights in the light of the Committee's general recommendation XVII.

Contribution of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

47. Virginia Dandan, Chairperson of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, introduced the contribution of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the preparatory process for the Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.1/14). The document focuses on the right to education as set out in articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the focus of the work of the Committee over the last 18 months. The Committee was of the view that one important strategy for the elimination of racism is a renewed commitment to the right to education. The submission highlights general comment No. 13, adopted in December 1999, on article 13 of the Covenant (E/C.12/1999/10), and general comment No. 11, adopted in May 1999, on article 14 of the Covenant (E/C.12/1999/4).

Contribution of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

48. A contribution by the Committee on the Rights of the Child to the preparatory process for the Conference (A/CONF.189/PC.1/15) was prepared. The Committee on the Rights of the Child intends to draft a general comment on article 29 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (aims of education) so that it can be submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

49. The Committee also indicated that it will appoint one or two of its members to represent the Committee at the meeting of the Preparatory Committee and at the Conference itself, and will continue to consider other contributions that could be made to the preparatory process for the Conference.

Contribution by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

50. In a note by the secretariat (A/CONF.189/PC.1/6), Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, noted that owing to circumstances beyond his control he had been unable to submit the requested study on preventive measures relating to ethnic, racial, religious and xenophobically motivated conflicts.

51. In an oral statement, the Special Rapporteur pointed to several current world problems relating to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular the political activities of extreme right-wing parties; racist violence against

migrant workers; the dangers of xenophobic or racist groups gaining political power in certain countries; and discrimination against Roma and the expansion of racist hate speeches through the Internet. He recommended the adoption of international measures to counter hate speeches on the Internet.

52. The Special Rapporteur recommended that an international consultation be put in place to discuss these issues. He noted that legal and penal measures exist against racism and intolerance, but suggested that greater economic and social measures need to be implemented as well to help victims of racism and racial discrimination. Consequently, he proposed that each concerned country adopt a national plan to integrate minorities, migrant workers and indigenous populations into their societies. Each country should present those plans to the Conference, which would need to take full account of economic and social measures, as well as legal measures to combat racism, racial discrimination and related intolerance. He maintained that economic and social measures against racism should be an integral part of the discussions at the Conference.

Contribution by the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance

53. Abdelfattah Amor, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on religious intolerance, introduced his report concerning racial discrimination and religious intolerance (A/CONF.189/PC.1/7). The report reviews the international mechanisms for the protection of victims of religious intolerance, and makes three main recommendations: first, that international mechanisms should be strengthened, at both the international and national levels, and there is also a need for improving legal and particularly penal protection; second, independent national institutions should be created to deal with cases of religious and racial intolerance, and which produce publicity, information and proposals for Governments, as well as legal advice and support for individual victims of discrimination, and should also have a conciliatory mission; third, various preventative measures are suggested in regard to education, information, communication, dialogue within and between different religious groups, and democracy and development.

Contribution by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants

54. Gabriela Rodriguez Pizarro, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on human rights of migrants, submitted to the Preparatory Committee a report entitled "Discrimination against migrants: migrant women in search of remedies" (A/CONF.189/PC.1/19). The report gives some suggestions on how to prevent discrimination and violence against women migrants by improving the channels through which such practices can be corrected. The report notes that one important means of achieving this is to allow migrants the opportunity to communicate what they experience before, during and after their transfer, while another is empowering them to make their views known in the forums where decisions are made, specifically with respect to migration policies (see Commission resolution 1999/44, para. 6).

C. Information received from specialized agencies and United Nations bodies

1. International Labour Organization

55. The ILO reported that it has various tools in the fight against racism: recognition of the right to non-discrimination in many ILO standards; supervision of the implementation of the obligations undertaken in these standards; and technical advice and assistance in the implementation of standards. The ILO conducts training activities as well as providing direct technical assistance to member States. In recent years, these activities have covered, *inter alia*, assistance for the adoption of legislation on racial and other discrimination, the creation and operation of national mechanisms designed to overcome discrimination, affirmative action programmes.

56. The main relevant ILO Conventions are the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention of 1958 (No. 111); the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised) of 1949 (No. 97); and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples' Convention of 1989 (No. 169).

57. In addition, the ILO has recently been using a new tool in the fight against racial discrimination – the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work, adopted in 1998, which is concerned among other things with the elimination of discrimination in

regard to employment and occupation (see in particular para. 2 of the Declaration).

58. In Geneva, from 8 to 11 March 2000, the ILO hosted a high-level meeting on achieving equality in employment for migrant workers, which addressed the important problem of combating the discrimination in employment faced by migrant and ethnic minority workers. Thirty-three government, employer and worker delegates from 14 Western European and North American countries examined new approaches to combating racial discrimination and xenophobia. More than 40 observers from the United Nations, regional intergovernmental organizations, national anti-discrimination monitoring bodies, non-governmental organizations, migrant groups and researchers also participated in the debate. This was the concluding stage of the seven-year ILO research project "Combating discrimination against migrant and ethnic minority workers in the world of work". Participants came from countries in which research or related activities had been carried out – Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

59. In its conclusions, the meeting emphasized the importance of the ILO in continuing to serve as the catalyst in promoting and stimulating action, and disseminating information on best practices to promote equality. The research and publications stemming from the ILO's research on combating discrimination in employment had been found to be very useful in increasing awareness and in identifying possible measures to address the problem. The draft manual on achieving equality had already been used in policy formulation in at least one country, and should be distributed by the ILO as soon as possible. It was suggested that the ILO explore developing international standards or guidelines in two areas: anti-discrimination measures and international recognition of professional and technical qualifications. It was suggested that the ILO involve NGOs and migrant organizations in relevant activities and dialogue. It was also suggested that the ILO invite the involvement of countries of origin as well as other countries concerned with migration and discrimination in future activities on anti-discrimination efforts.

2. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

60. UNHCR reported that its protection strategy encompasses a comprehensive policy that deals with the whole cycle of forced displacement. First, it seeks with others to prevent the deterioration of conditions to the point where people are forced to flee. Second, it tries to meet their protection and assistance needs during their flight and in countries of asylum. Third, it tries to promote and contribute to the safety and welfare of refugees in the early stages of repatriation to their countries of origin. UNHCR has seen that racism and related intolerance are serious obstacles at all stages of the displacement cycle.

61. In 1985, the Executive Committee concluded that the monitoring of amnesties, guarantees and assurances should be an inherent part of the mandate of UNHCR. Since the early 1990s, UNHCR's protection role has expanded to include monitoring key human rights of refugees – at a minimum the right to life, liberty and physical integrity. Increasingly, a broader set of rights are monitored – access to due process, property restitution or compensation, education, the right to work and the right to freedom of movement.

62. By September 1999, UNHCR had assisted some 513,000 refugees in returning home in 1999. Prior to the 1990s, repatriation operations usually took place after peace and stability had been restored to a country. However, repatriation has recently been increasingly taking place in much less than ideal circumstances, sometimes during continued conflict and insecurity. This form of repatriation poses great risks to the refugees; however, it is important to note that many choose to return despite the dangers, and they often play an important role themselves in peace-building and peacemaking in their countries of origin.

63. Central to the role of human rights monitoring has always been the principle of non-discrimination between returnees and local populations. For repatriation to be sustainable and for the root causes of refugee flow to be curbed, strong action at the national level must be taken to deal with discrimination against minority groups on their return. This has also meant that in recent return operations in Rwanda, Kosovo and former Yugoslavia, UNHCR has supplemented monitoring with protection activities, such as inter-ethnic reintegration and promotion of freedom of movement.

64. The Public Affairs Unit of UNHCR coordinates projects directed at the general public, aimed at raising awareness of refugee issues and building public support for the protection of refugees' rights. UNHCR's information campaign regarding combating racism aims principally to foster healthy social attitudes in order to expand communication and education about the existence and extent of racist and xenophobic prejudices and their consequences. In this regard, the World Conference against Racism constitutes an excellent tool to raise awareness in order to protect refugees. Various projects are planned by the Public Affairs Unit for 2000. For example, a public service advertising campaign is to be launched, promoting refugee integration, comprised of print advertisements, a television spot and an educational kit for use in schools. Also, in 2000 a 34-page brochure will be produced about refugee children, designed for readers 8 to 12 years old. For UNHCR's fiftieth anniversary, a mobile photo exhibit is being produced, highlighting the major operations of the last five decades. A new series of children's books about child refugees in Africa, an instructional kit for how to organize a national refugee day or week, a special project in each country of the European Union to promote refugee integration and a new international advertising campaign promoting respect for refugees will all be launched in 2000.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

65. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development reported in its reply that while its activities are not directly related to the fight against racism, during the recent tenth session of UNCTAD, which took place in Bangkok in February 2000, member States adopted a plan of action (TD/386) which in its paragraph 7 states that democracy, rule of law, transparent and accountable governance and administration, including combating and eliminating corruption, are indispensable foundations for the realization of people-centred sustainable development. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, with the right to development as an integral part, must be promoted and protected. Macroeconomic stability has proved to be an important element for economic growth and the alleviation of poverty.

4. Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat

66. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination has been a core human rights concern of the United Nations since its establishment in 1945, and as such the Department of Public Information has played an important role in shaping world awareness about these issues. The Department reported that most of its recent activities in the area of racism have focused on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The elimination of racism and racial discrimination remains an underlying theme of the work of the Department through information products, such as radio and video programmes, educational tools, such as the Cyber School Bus, publications, such as United Nations *Chronicle*, programmes for the media, NGOs, schools and the general public, and in outreach and educational activities undertaken by United Nations information centres and services in 77 countries.

Preparations for the World Conference against Racism

67. The Department has formulated a worldwide multimedia public information programme to increase awareness of the Conference. The aim is to raise public awareness about the Conference and the work of the United Nations to eliminate racism and related intolerance, and to help mobilize political support and encourage the highest level of participation at the Conference. The information campaign will target a global audience, in particular the media, non-governmental organizations and individuals involved in the struggle against racism and related issues, and opinion makers such as editorial writers.

68. The Department has prepared a brochure and two background articles on the Conference, in English, French and Spanish, which will soon be available in Arabic, Chinese and Russian on the Internet. A six-language poster and kit cover will be produced. Two banner designs for the launch of the Conference, held on Human Rights Day 1999, were developed. A second set of banners was designed in Spanish for a concert tour in the Caribbean and Latin America to promote the Conference, by Ruben Blades, a Goodwill Ambassador for the World Conference.

69. The following seven internationally renowned figures from the worlds of literature, music and human rights advocacy were appointed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to serve as goodwill ambassadors for the Conference: Nobel Prize laureates for literature Wole Soyinka of Nigeria and Seamus Heaney of Ireland; Panamanian actor and musician Ruben Blades; Moroccan writer Tahar Ben Jelloun; Indian sitarist Ravi Shankar; former Icelandic President Vigdis Finnbogadottir and children's rights defender Marian Wright Edelman of the United States. The goodwill ambassadors will work in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner and the Department of Public Information in order to promote awareness of the Conference

70. DPI's News Service has covered the preparatory activities for the Conference on the United Nations Internet home page. A web site for the Conference itself is being developed by the Office in collaboration with the Department, with links to this from the home pages of the Office and the main United Nations site, and audio-visual material from the Conference will be available on the Internet. The News and Editorial Section highlighted United Nations activities in its reference paper/press release entitled "United Nations conferences and observances", issued in February 2000. The paper is available in English and French in print and on the United Nations Internet site.

Human Rights Day (10 December 1999)

71. At Human Rights Day 1999, held in Geneva, the global information campaign for the Conference was launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Department brought to Geneva 12 editors and commentators from print and broadcast media covering developing countries. They engaged in discussions with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Director-General of the World Health Organization and others, on racism and other human rights issues. The Department held press conferences in Geneva and New York, and media interviews with two of the goodwill ambassadors. In New York, the Department also briefed representatives of NGOs affiliated with the Department about the Conference.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March 2000)

72. The United Nations information centres and services utilized the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to undertake activities at the national level to promote the Conference, and will do so again in 2001. The message of the Secretary-General and of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as an editorial by the High Commissioner, were distributed to the United Nations information centres and services for placement in national and international media for the International Day. Focus was also placed on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Cyber School Bus

73. The Cyber School Bus is an interactive web site for use by students and teachers, and has been involved in a number of projects related to racial discrimination, human rights and peace. The project materials area of the web site lists these resources.

United Nations information centres and services activities

74. The Department's information offices in 77 countries are active in promoting awareness about the United Nations and its work to combat racism and racial discrimination. Examples of their activities in regard to racism include the following. The Tunisia information centre has posted a web page focusing on the promotion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Paris information centre assisted a French NGO in organizing a train trip for 250 schoolchildren through Eastern Europe to sensitize and educate them on racism and anti-Semitism. When the Special Rapporteur on racial discrimination visited the Czech Republic, the Director of the information centre briefed him and his team on topical human rights issues in the region. The Sydney information centre arranged for a radio interview of its Director on the complaint by the Australian Aboriginal community to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

5. United Nations Development Programme

75. UNDP reported that in 1998 the organization adopted a policy of integrating human rights with

promoting sustainable human development. It signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, spelling out the work to be carried out in partnership to promote and protect human rights in the human development context. UNDP defines poverty as "human poverty", deprivation in the most basic choices people have — such as to live a long and healthy life, to be educated, to have the means to a decent standard of living and to be able to be a part of the life of a community.

76. Since adopting its policy of integrating human rights into its work, UNDP has placed a growing emphasis on the promotion and protection of human rights as essential for achieving sustainable human development. A survey of UNDP activities was carried out in 1999, confirming that many activities and programmes supported by the organization contribute to the realization of human rights. A number of these activities involve efforts to support indigenous groups, minority groups and migrant workers, many of whom have suffered from distinctions, exclusions, restrictions and preferences based on race. For example, in Bolivia UNDP and the Office have been supporting the formulation and implementation of a national human rights programme since 1994. Indigenous people make up 55 per cent of the Bolivian population. In Brazil, the Citizen and Human Rights Project involves supporting the Brazilian Government's national human rights programme, which includes such activities as the compilation of a database on public security programmes and the drafting of proposals for legislation on anti-discrimination and equality

Indigenous peoples programmes

77. With indigenous peoples, UNDP is involved in programmes that recognize traditional knowledge and protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples, which evolved into indigenous knowledge programmes.

78. In Borneo, Malaysia, the indigenous knowledge project involves the adaptation and continuation of traditional agricultural systems based in indigenous knowledge, and innovations to serve the needs of today's community. In Ecuador, the Yatan Yacu Sacha project aims to recover indigenous knowledge for the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity of the Amazonian forest of Yana Yacu Sacha. In the Philippines, the project is involved with the empowerment of indigenous people for the sustainable management of ancestral domains. In Brazil, UNDP assists the Government in promoting sustainable management for the indigenous communities in the Amazon region, through the legal protection of their land and natural resources and the preservation of their cultural heritage.

79. UNDP also supports various projects through small grants programmes. In Chile, UNDP organized and trained 23 indigenous Huilliche communities in reforestation techniques and management and in preserving forest biodiversity. The communities have also been granted more direct control over the natural resources where they live. In the Philippines, a programme provides direct small grants to indigenous people's organizations for their projects, such as projects promoting land reform and land rights. In Latin America, projects created under the small grants programme address the needs of indigenous communities not only in project implementation but also by involving them in decision-making.

Migrant workers programmes

80. UNDP supports several projects that assist migrant workers. In the Philippines two programmes have been carried out. The support programme to address violence and human rights violations against migrant Filipino workers is designed to assist migrant workers from the Philippines, particularly domestic workers working in other parts of Asia. Previously, the reintegration of Filipino migrants in Hong Kong through entrepreneur development was designed to increase economic opportunities for domestic workers (almost all of whom are women and girls) who are obliged to travel elsewhere in Asia to work.

Minorities programmes

81. UNDP also supports programmes that target ethnic minorities. In Belarus, a joint UNDP-Office of the High Commissioner project, the Promotion of the Rule of Law and the Protection of Human Rights in the Republic of Belarus, provides technical support, policy advice and training. One of its principal aims is the protection of the human rights of minorities. In the southern Lao People's Democratic Republic, UNDP has been involved in developing school books in ethnic minority languages. In Latvia, UNDP supports the national programme for Latvian language training,

promoting social integration of Latvia's linguistically diverse ethnic groups.

6. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

82. UNESCO reported that since the abolition of apartheid it has assisted in building a non-racist and democratic society in South Africa through promoting education on human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance. Accordingly, at the University of Fort Hare the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair in Human Rights was established which has become part of the network of UNESCO chairs in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance, currently comprising 45 chairs all over the world. This network aims to establish and strengthen academic cooperation in the fields of human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance, the struggle against discrimination being an inherent part of the work of the chairs.

83. UNESCO contributes extensively to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004). Four regional conferences were organized by UNESCO, embracing the regions of Europe (Finland 1997), Africa (Senegal 1998), Asia and the Pacific (India 1999) and the Arab States (Morocco 1999). The Latin America and Caribbean conference will be held in 2000 in the Dominican Republic.

84. From the early years of UNESCO's existence, it has prepared a number of teaching aids that deal directly or indirectly with racial discrimination. In 1996, UNESCO issued a publication entirely devoted to the struggle against discrimination, which has been widely disseminated. Other UNESCO publications dealing with human rights in general devote special sections to the struggle against discrimination. The publication *Human Rights: Questions and Answers*, which has been translated into more than 30 languages, should be mentioned. The three-volume manual on human rights education for universities contains several articles devoted to the struggle against racial discrimination and intolerance.[2] Another important publication is *Human Rights: Major International Instruments*; published annually, it compiles data on the status of ratification of international instruments concerning prevention of discrimination. The next edition will be dedicated to the International Year of Mobilization against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the World Conference against Racism.

85. An intersectoral working group was set up in February 2000 with the purpose of elaborating practical measures to ensure a visible and significant UNESCO contribution to the Year and the Conference and to mobilize UNESCO partners, especially national commissions, UNESCO chairs, UNESCO clubs and associated schools, as well as public opinion in general.

86. The major fields in which UNESCO will contribute to the Year and the Conference are:

(a) Human rights education, research and sensitization of public opinion as a means to prevent and eradicate racial discrimination and racist prejudices and stereotypes;

(b) The struggle against racist propaganda on the Internet.

87. Activities proposed for the International Year include a philosophy forum on racism, xenophobia and exclusion; an international conference on means to counteract xenophobia and intolerance in countries with multi-ethnic populations; a film festival against exclusion and promoting tolerance; the elaboration of anti-racist pedagogical materials and a review of educational materials in order to eliminate elements inciting racism and intolerance. Furthermore, the subject of the struggle against racial discrimination and xenophobia will be included in the agenda of several meetings, such as the second meeting of chairs in human rights, democracy, peace and tolerance, which will be held in May 2000 in Stadschlaining, Austria, and the annual meeting of directors of human rights institutes, to be organized by the end of 2000. Moreover, the fifth edition of the *World Directory of Human Rights Research and Training Institutions* will be dedicated to the Year and the Conference. Research results pertaining to the historical roots of anti-black racism, to ways and means to counter hate propaganda and racism on the Internet and to the management of multicultural and multi-ethnic societies (part of the ongoing management of the social transformations MOST programme) will be submitted to the Conference and widely distributed. The issuing of posters, calendars and other materials is also being considered.

7. United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

88. The Centre for International Crime Prevention reported that it combats crime in all its forms, including xenophobic and racially motivated violence. It promotes action that will prevent, deter and punish discriminatory and other acts of criminal violence and exploitation of individuals, and ensure access, protection and fair treatment of victims in regard to the administration of justice.

89. Through technical assistance and research, in particular its global programme against trafficking in human beings and global programme against transnational organized crime, the Centre takes full account of criminal violence and exploitation perpetrated against particularly vulnerable individuals, such as those subjected to racism or related intolerance.

90. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/111 and 53/114, an ad hoc committee is elaborating a United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and three additional protocols, two of which are relevant in this context and will continue to be negotiated in 2000: a revised draft protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea (see A/AC.254/Add.1/Rev.4); and a revised draft protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children (see A/AC.254/Add.1/Rev.5). Negotiations on these instruments will contribute to placing racism and related discrimination in perspective, as out of place in a new world order. They will also contribute to global action on the deterrence and punishment of specific forms of race-directed organized crime.

91. The Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 52/86, prohibit all forms of violence against women and girls, including that which is racially motivated, targeted or directed. The Strategies criminalize such acts for the first time, and aim to put into place relevant preventive, deterrent and punitive measures in that regard.

92. The recent Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Vienna, 10-17 April 2000) and the preliminary draft of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, transmitted to the Congress by Council decision 1999/261, took up the issue of racism. States adopting the Declaration noted the importance of taking steps to incorporate into international crime prevention strategies and norms measures to prevent and combat crimes associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (article 18). Further, States affirmed their determination to combat violence stemming from intolerance on the basis of ethnicity, and agreed to contribute to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (article 19). The Declaration of the Tenth Congress calls for States to make a commitment to promote United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, many of which prohibit racism, racial discrimination or xenophobic practices. The Declaration calls for use and application of those standards and norms in national law and practice, reviewing relevant law and procedures and strengthening relevant institutions.

93. The Secretary-General, under the auspices of the Centre, recently dispatched to member States the sixth quinquennial survey on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing the rights of those facing the death penalty, 1994-1998, the results of which will be the basis of his report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Council at their respective sessions in 2000. The "race factor" has been included among other variables (age, gender and religion) in the survey instrument and in the report, in regard to those sentenced to death and executed for capital offences during the review period, for the first time in the history of these surveys since 1975.

8. United Nations Population Fund

94. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, approved by the consensus of 179 countries in September 1994, includes a goal of the empowerment and autonomy of women and the enhancement of their political, social, economic and health status. It calls for the elimination of all practices that discriminate against women, and affirms that advancing gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women, the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes. The Programme of Action calls on Governments to address, in consultation with indigenous peoples and relevant

NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, the specific needs of indigenous populations in all aspects of population and development, especially in regard to reproductive health care. The key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the outcome of the five-year review of ICPD, reaffirms that Governments should promote and respect the rights of indigenous peoples, including the right to access to reproductive health-care services. However, those consensus documents that arose from the conferences held in Cairo and Beijing are not legally binding.

95. The standard of health care available to indigenous women, including reproductive care and information, is often inferior to that of the general population. Moreover, poverty not only limits access to health care but also compounds the vulnerability of indigenous women to violations of their rights to reproductive and sexual health. For example, in Guatemala maternal mortality for indigenous women is 83 per cent higher than the national level. Adequate health care is often hindered due to a lack of culture- and language-specific information, so that for example, inadequate translation services could deprive indigenous women of valuable information regarding their reproductive health. Coercion in treatment is also a particular concern among poor and indigenous women.

96. UNFPA supports programmes in under-served areas (rural and urban) in such countries as Viet Nam, India, Uganda and Mexico. UNFPA has helped implement national and regional activities targeting indigenous people in Panama, Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru. These programmes focus on improving access of indigenous people to quality reproductive health care services, and include training and counselling components for health workers, as well as the provision of reproductive health equipment and contraceptives.

97. UNFPA has appointed a focal point for indigenous peoples. In the field, UNFPA regional country support teams include sociocultural advisers who ensure that programmes are developed and implemented taking into account the perspectives of indigenous peoples and other minorities. Several UNFPA country offices also have focal points for indigenous peoples. UNFPA programme and project development is a consultative process that involves national counterparts, associations and individuals, including representatives of indigenous peoples, whenever possible.

9. United Nations Volunteers

98. UNV is involved in various programmes around the world which support ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples, both in development-related areas and conflict resolution. UNV reported that it deliberately mixes nationalities in its volunteer programmes, mixes international with national volunteers and has recently tried to include indigenous volunteers. This creates increased cultural sensitivity, breaks down racial/ethnic stereotypes and increases local involvement in volunteer programmes. In 1999, there were 4,513 United Nations volunteers in service worldwide from Africa (25 per cent), Asia (25 per cent), Europe and North America (18 per cent), Latin America (10 per cent) and the Arab region (22 per cent). About two thirds of the serving United Nations volunteers were from developing countries.

Supporting ethnic minorities

99. The highland people's programme supports self-determination and the right to development of over 100 ethnic minority groups in the highlands of Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. In Peru, human rights specialists provide support to the Peruvian Ombudsman service in its outreach activities with disadvantaged groups in small communities. In Ecuador, national and international UNVs work with a local NGO to empower indigenous communities in the San Pablo Lake Basin area to develop sustainably.

Ethnic minority support within peace-building and conflict resolution

100. Since 1994, UNVs have been verifying and monitoring the implementation of peace accords and sub-accords relating to the rights of indigenous peoples in Minugua. Since 1997, UNVs have given technical assistance to 21 local governmental and non-governmental institutions to implement the peace accord in Guatemala, emphasizing indigenous peoples' rights (with UNDP and the Swedish Government). In Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNV peace-building/confidence-building projects promote reconciliation and cooperation between ethnic groups and factions in war-affected communities. UNVs support the United Nations Interim Administration

Mission in Kosovo to promote a non-discriminatory and multi-ethnic, human rights-based legal and administrative system. UNVs assisted the Government, the Moro National Liberation Front and civil society actors in post-conflict confidence-building measures in the Mindanao and Palawan areas of the Philippines. In Burundi, UNV, with UNESCO, is working on a culture for peace project to develop non-combative conflict resolution techniques. In Rwanda, in a community-based programme, UNVs work with Hutu and Tutsi to jointly identify and implement projects needed by the whole community.

10. World Health Organization

101. WHO is currently involved in developing a strategy on health and human rights to serve as an institutional platform for its health and human rights work. The fundamental principle of equality has been identified as a key component in all matters concerning health. This includes non-discrimination in access to health facilities, goods and services, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable or marginalized sections of the population. It also means that health facilities, goods and services must be within safe physical reach for all parts of the population and be culturally appropriate, i.e., respectful of the culture of individuals, minorities and indigenous populations and sensitive to gender and life-cycle requirements.

102. With regard to the health of indigenous populations, WHO organized an international consultation on the health of indigenous peoples in Geneva, from 23 to 26 November 1999. It was opened by Gro Harlem Brundtland, WHO Director-General; 149 observers and participants, with balanced representation of indigenous peoples' health experts, attended the consultation from five continents along with representatives of United Nations agencies and Governments.

103. The aim of the consultation was to initiate, in partnership with indigenous representatives, the development of appropriate policy to be implemented through a global plan of action addressing and promoting the right to health of indigenous people for the International Decade and beyond. Recommendations were made both for the future work of WHO and for other main stakeholders, including Governments, other United Nations agencies and NGOs. One of these was to promote the development and consolidation of partnership, embracing the priority need to establish an informal indigenous people health advisory group.

104. The World Health Assembly, at its fifty-third session, in May 2000, adopted a resolution which urges the United Nations system and member States to take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the consultation on the health of indigenous peoples.

III. Status of the Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

105. In paragraph 29 of its resolution 54/154, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, the specialized agencies and the regional commissions to provide financial and technical assistance for the organization of the regional preparatory meetings planned in the context of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and stressed that such assistance should be supplemented by voluntary contributions.

106. In the same resolution, the General Assembly appealed to Member States to contribute generously to the voluntary fund for the Conference to cover the preparatory process and the Conference and the participation of non-governmental organizations in particular from developing countries.

107. In its resolution 2000/14, the Commission on Human Rights expressed concern at the lack of financial support to hold regional meetings in preparation for the Conference, and invited all States to contribute generously to the trust fund established by the High Commissioner in order to cover the activities foreseen within the framework of the World Conference, in particular to respond positively and in a timely manner to the appeal for the preparation of the Conference as contained in the annual appeal of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Contributions received from May 1999 to May 2000 are reviewed in annexes I and II to the present report.

IV. Conclusions

108. The process leading to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia

and Related Intolerance began formally with the first session of the Preparatory Committee held in Geneva from 1 to 5 May 2000. The deliberations during the meetings of the first session of the Preparatory Committee bear witness to the strong support for the holding of the Conference. States Members of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental and other organizations, appear to have already mobilized themselves to provide an impetus to the fight against racism and racial discrimination.

109. With regard to the activities undertaken to combat racism and racial discrimination by United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, information received on such activities by United Nations bodies and organizations reflect global and concerted efforts to address the issues and provide long-lasting solutions.

Notes

[1] There was no general agreement regarding the word "compensatory"; regional groups and States requested that their positions on this matter be reproduced in the report (see A/CONF.189/PC.1/21, para. 30).

[2] First volume already published; second volume to be published in summer 2000; third volume to be published end 2000/beginning 2001.

Annex I

Trust Fund for the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

A. Contributions received from May 1999 to May 2000

Country	*Amount in US$*	*Paid on*
Germany	13 015.00	10.12.1999
India	1 712.00	06.04.2000
Japan	7 000.00	29.02.2000
Saudi Arabia	10 000.00	22.07.1999
Total	**31 727.00**	

B. Contributions pledged

Country	*Amount in US$*	*Pledged on*
Ireland	29 300.00	25.11.1999
Total	**29 300.00**	

Annex II

Trust Fund for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

A. Contributions received from May 1999 to May 2000

Country	*Amount in US$*	*Paid on*
Cuba	874.84	02.09.1999
Finland	25 397.04	25.01.2000
Germany	39 044.80	10.12.1999
Luxembourg	250 000.00	27.02.2000
Israel	5 000.00	17.08.1999
Netherlands	115 997.56	20.01.2000
Norway	63 814.58	06.07.1999
Poland	5 000.00	06.10.1999
South Africa	19 104.00	31.03.2000
Spain	87 537.42	18.02.2000
Sweden	24 584.27	23.06.1999
Switzerland	30 487.80	08.02.2000
United Kingdom	134 623.00	31.03.2000
Total	**801 465.31**	

B. Contributions pledged

Country	*Amount in US$*	*Pledged on*
Sweden	114 811.00	31.03.2000
Turkey	10 000.00	03.05.1999
United States of America	250 000.00	16.05.2000
Spain	83 245.00	26.05.2000
Italy	150 000.00	15.05.2000
Total	**608 054.00**	

Others		
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	900 000.00 360 000.00	01.03.2000
Ford Foundation	500 000.00	11.05.2000
Total	**1 760 000.00**	